INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1053, June 20, 4 p.m.

...: 10089
...: June 20, 1954
11:44 p.m.

PRIORITY

Foreign Minister Toriello received [redacted] this morning at my request to discuss prohibition of Americans leaving country (Embassy telegram 1046 June 19). He immediately took up Department's press release of June 19 quoting me as reporting uprisings at Quezaltenango, Zacapa and Puerto Barrios. He said this report was not true and that it gave impression I was helping spread unfounded rumors. I said I had to report what I heard but I had not reported it as fact. He also took exception to statements re strafing and bombing, saying this had occurred and people had been injured. I replied I still had no reliable reports re bombing; there had been strafing at airport but eyewitnesses doubted there had been any in city. However, I did not wish him to think I was carrying on malicious campaign against government and cited as example that I had not ordered evacuation American citizens, which would cause quite a stir. He begged me not to take such a step and suggested Embassy officer meet daily with Chief of Protocol to receive information on situation. I thanked him and said we would take advantage of this offer. In that connection, I brought up question of permits to leave country for American citizens willing to travel overland. He said he would gladly extend such permits provided individuals in question would sign waiver of responsibility. I agreed to this.

Toriello then repeated government's charges that governments of Honduras, Nicaragua and Dominican Republic were implicated in "invasion" of Guatemala. He said he hoped US Government would do what it could to settle this problem, adding US had great influence in this Hemisphere. I replied apparently we had influence in every country except Guatemala.

Toriello told me rebel planes had attacked Chiquimula and Zacapa yesterday and that one plane had landed in Mexico, apparently after being hit by Guatemalan gunfire; its pilots were two Americans, one of whom was wounded. I asked if this was confirmed and he said Mexican Government had verified report. I gained impression he intended to include this in Guatemalan charges before SC. Embassy has since heard this report from another source but has no confirmation.

PEURIFOY

MAM/S

NOTE: Passed Army, Navy, Army, Air, OSD 6/21/54,

714.00/6-2054

FILED

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/30/78
PER [illegible] OFFICE ARA
FADRG EOI CASE NO. 740332

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